

Treat-Witherspoon House
25 Clarissa Street
Rochester
Monroe County
New York

HABS No. NY-5659

HABS
NY,
28-ROCH,
32-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-5659

TREAT-WITHERSPOON HOUSE

NY,
28-ROCH,32-

Location: 25 Clarissa Street, at the northwest corner of
Centre Park and Clarissa Street, Rochester,
Monroe County, New York

Present Owner Mrs. Pearl E. Marenus
and Occupant:

Present Use: Private residence.

Statement of This small Greek Revival house, demolished in 1968,
Significance: was located just outside the once fashionable Third
Ward. The few remaining early nineteenth century
houses reflect the architectural styles of the
adjacent section, although on a smaller scale.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1835.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: That parcel of land being
a subdivision of great lot number 50, township one, short
range designated as village lots 102 and 103, each fronting
on Elizabeth Street and being fifty feet in depth.
Clarissa Street was formerly called both Elizabeth and
Caledonia Street.

1826 Deed, October 16, 1826, Book 8, p. 227.
From: William Atkinson and Elizabeth, his wife.
To: Jonathon King.
For: \$160.00.

1834 Deed, November 11, 1834, Book 30, p. 30.
From: Jonathon King and Harriet, his wife.
To: Ellery S. Treat.
For: \$400.00.

1845 Deed, April 29, 1845, Book 66, p. 475.
From: Horace Gay.
To: William Alling.
Alling, as holder of the mortgage on the property,
brought suit against Treat and others to recover
his investment. He purchased the property at
auction.
For: \$401.00.

- 1849 Deed, March 14, 1849, Book 84, p. 227.
From: William Alling and Martha S., his wife.
To: Samuel F. Witherspoon.
For: \$1,500.00.
- 1901 Deed by will, dated August 20, 1895, March 13, 1901,
Book 638, p. 78.
From: Samuel F. Witherspoon.
To: Edward Witherspoon, son and executor.
- 1920 Deed, by suit, March 15, 1920, Book 1077, p. 202.
Plaintiffs are: Alice Witherspoon Ingersoll, Eleanor
Witherspoon Cornell, Arthur S. Witherspoon, Gertrude
Witherspoon Scudder, Herbert Witherspoon, Elizabeth
Witherspoon Servin, Edna Witherspoon Mole, Dorothy Y.
Witherspoon, Edith R. Witherspoon, Florence H. Witherspoon,
and the Monroe County Savings Bank.
Defendent: Edward T. Witherspoon, son and heir of
Edward Witherspoon.
From: Edward T. Witherspoon.
To: George A. Mole, Lenox, Massachusetts.
- 1922 Deed, August 22, 1922, Book 1187, p. 8.
From: George A. Mole and Edna W. Mole, Lenox, Massachusetts.
To: Michael J. Doyle and Helen, his wife.
- 1926 Deed, May 29, 1926, Book 1368, p. 5.
From: Michael J. Doyle and Helen, his wife.
To: Norman W. Mayer and Dorothy H., his wife.
- 1944 Deed, August 30, 1944, Book 2203, p. 31.
From: Norman W. Mayer and Dorothy H., his wife.
To: Fred Marenus and Pearl E., his wife.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown. Jonathon King,
owner of the property from 1826 to 1834, was one of the
first master builders in Rochester.
5. Original plans: Unknown.
6. Alterations and additions: A north brick addition appears
to be later in date.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Ellery S. Treat, the probable builder of the house, was active
in the First Baptist Church of Brighton as the clerk. William
Alling, who owned the house from 1845 to 1849, was at that
time foreman of the book and job office of the Workingman's
Advocate. Samuel F. Witherspoon, owner from 1849 until his

death in 1901, was a grocer whose business was located on North St. Paul Street. He was an alderman of the Second Ward in 1846.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deeds, Office of Monroe County Clerk.

b. Secondary and published sources:

McIntosh, Prof. W. H. History of Monroe County, New York. Philadelphia: Everts, Ensign and Everts, 1877.

Schmidt, Carl and Ann. Architecture and Architects of Rochester, New York. Rochester: Rochester Society of Architects, 1959.

2. Likely sources not yet investigated: Photographic collections of early Rochester views.

Prepared by Kevin Patrick Harrington
Society for the Preservation of Landmarks
in Western New York
November 30, 1966

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This small Greek Revival house built of local ledge stone presents a balanced and simply detailed facade.
2. Condition of fabric: The structure was demolished in 1968. The following exterior description is based on the HABS photographs of 1967.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately twenty-four feet by eighteen feet; three bays by three bays; one-and-a-half stories with one story north wing; rectangular central block with smaller rectangular wing.

2. Foundations: The above-grade basement is finished with ledge stone masonry.
3. Wall construction: The walls are of random, rough cut ledge stone. The north wing is brick,
4. Structural system, framing: The masonry walls are load bearing.
5. Chimneys: There are two capped brick enclosed end chimneys in the main block.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The center entrance is framed by a simple projecting Greek Revival entablature supported by square columns. The recessed four panel wood door is framed by a toplight and simple pilasters.
 - b. Windows: All double hung, six over six light sashed windows are set with roughly dressed, vertically laid ledge stone caps and slightly projecting sills. The windows of the north wing are similarly treated.
7. Roof: The asphalt shingled gable roof of the main block is finished by a projecting eave with mutules applied to the soffit. The east and west facades have a deep three-part cornice, with undecorated frieze and narrow, denticulated stepped molding. The east cornice is pierced with three small tax windows.
8. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: Six wood steps approach the east entrance.

Prepared by Amy Hecker
Society for the Pre-
servation of Land-
marks in Western
New York
January, 1974

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This recording project of twenty-six selections of historical and architecturally significant Rochester structures was undertaken in 1966, by the Society for the Preservation of Landmarks in Western New York, Inc., Mrs. Patrick Harrington, Executive Director, in cooperation with the Historic American Buildings Survey, James

C. Massey, Chief. The project was under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Senior Historian. Architectural and historical descriptions were contributed by the Society for the Preservation of Landmarks in Western New York, Inc. General photographic documentation was undertaken by Hans Padelt, Senior Engineer, Graflex, on a contractual basis with the Historic American Buildings Survey. The final documentation and editing was done by Susan R. Slade in 1978, for transmittal to the Library of Congress and the impending publication of the Historic American Buildings Survey New York State catalogue.